

TSS-Luc Triangle-24/03/21

Let me start by repeating what was said last week in the OECD's Midterm economic outlook.

The recovery is starting but it is not yet stable so stimulus is still needed but needs to be better targeted :

- Support workers in the hardest hit sectors and young people
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- Targeted support to reduce the digital and green investment gaps.

As industriAll Europe we are every day faced with the potential growing gap in the European Union when it is about this twin green-digital transition. These transitions must be a driver for more equality and not the opposite.

The reason why we have serious concerns is threefold :

- not everywhere all stakeholders are involved. The importance of involving workers and trade unions in the design and implementation of the transformation plans is crucial. A meaningful and efficient social dialogue is crucial. It is not the time for further erosion of SD. It is about their communities and jobs, and if you want to have a just transition, it starts with real meaningful SD.
- all member states should develop comprehensive job creation and transformation plans. That also means that the roll out of best available technologies, renovation and technology transfer should happen in all 27 MS. If this does not happen, the EU might become a region where you have MS where transition happens with new and break through technologies, with the creation of new quality jobs, and another number of MS stuck into old technologies and low paid jobs.
- we need to increase our resources for investments in this transition. The first call for the ETS Innovation Fund has led to 21,7 Bill € of requested funding/projects while only 1 Bill € is available. The increase in resources is important especially for those regions that need to make serious efforts for this transition.

I conclude with some words on the continuous need for quality public services and infrastructure. And let's not make the same mistake as after the financial crisis in 2008 where austerity policies has deepened the crisis.

Last point. Funding is crucial. Europe's workers can not accept that the rich and wealthy, and companies escape paying their fair share of taxes. A fair fiscal policy needs to accompany the policies during the next years.